

THE DEATH OF S. S. VARNER

Ends his Life in a Fit of Melancholia

S. S. Varner, one of the prominent citizens of this county killed himself at his home at Riverside, a suburb of Marlinton, Monday, the 20th. He recently purchased from Miss May O. Moore, the residence and land known as the Cunningham Place. On Monday, Mrs. Varner came to the stores here to do some shopping. She left home at 2 p. m. and returned about four o'clock. She found the lifeless body of her husband hanging from the rafters in the mow of the barn. The body was cold showing that life had been extinct for some time.

It was apparent that he had taken a small rope, doubled it, and tied the loose ends to a rafter. With the loop and a noose had been made. A barrel was there with a board on top of it and he had jumped from the barrel and accomplished the act of self destruction.

Mr. Varner was about seventy years old. He had spent practically all of his long and useful life on a fine bluegrass farm near Linwood. Recently he sold it for a sum that made him independently wealthy and moved to this place. He has never been like himself since he changed his mode of life. He was too old to be moved from his accustomed surroundings. About a month ago he married for the second time. Recently he has been under the care of a physician, though there was no apprehension on the part of anyone that his mind had given away.

He leaves surviving him, his widow, who was Miss Bertha Boswell, and one daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Coyner. It is a sad ending for our old friend and mars the life history of a splendid man, but we came to the conclusion long ago that a person who destroys himself is not mentally responsible at the time.

"Beware of desperate steps. The darkest day Live till tomorrow, will have passed away."

FEDERAL LAND BANK

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of The Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, a cumulative dividend of 6 per cent, payable January 1st, on stock of record June 30, 1920, was declared. About 6,000 farmers, who are borrowing stockholders in the District comprising the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia, will participate in this dividend.

In view of the fact that this Bank has been in existence for only a short time operating on a small margin of profit, it is exceedingly gratifying to the friends of the Federal Land Bank that the farmers, who are the borrowers and stockholders, are now participating in the earnings of the institution.

The Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, through the Pocahontas County National Farm Loan Association, has loaned \$200,000 to farmers of Pocahontas County. Each borrower has stock in this Association equal to 5 per cent of his loan, and will receive a dividend of 6 per cent on his stock in said Association.

Our hope for the country has been renewed. Last Monday the high school shut down for half day on account of the building being uncomfortably cool. In the market place we were accosted by two big strapping fellows, who said they had a half day to loaf, and how they hated it. They are of the best of Pocahontas stock, and the sons of men who could buy us out several times. We suggested that there was a pile of wood at our house that we would like to have split up for a consideration. "Get an axe and lead us to it!" and the deal was closed. Never have we paid out money more cheerfully, and never have we received better value. The Country is safe.

The Methodist Church has under consideration the building of a new church. At a meeting of the officers on Tuesday night, it was decided to secure plans and specifications and estimates on a brick structure, the auditorium to have a seating capacity of 425.

SEE "The Rivers End" at Amusu Saturday, Matinee and Evening.

TO ALL--GREETINGS

With a full appreciation of the Yule-tide spirit which makes all humanity kin,

To old friends

To new friends

To friends we hope to claim the Officers, Directors and Employees of this Bank of service for all and to all extend friendly greetings for a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

The First National Bank

Marlinton, W. Va.

Under U. S. Government Supervision

MYSTERY OF THE JEWEL HANDLED KNIFE

Mildred Yeager and Geraldine Haupt (Fifth Instalment)

In bewilderment MacDonald turned to Eloise. "My dear, I am almost ready to give up the search for the producer of the mysterious bird-note and the murderer of your father, but first let us make a thorough survey of the lawn, perhaps we can find a clue out there which can throw some light on the mystery. You call Joseph while I run up to my room. I will be with you in a moment."

MacDonald hurried to his room, picked up his revolver and returned to the library door where he was joined by Eloise and Joseph, the latter appearing to be greatly excited about something. The three then proceeded to the lawn where they searched under and around every shrub and hedge.

When they were about ready to give up in despair MacDonald, who had gone several yards from the others, happened upon a fresh print of a man's shoe in the soft ground at the side of the gravel path under the library window. With a new ray of hope they began their search anew.

Suddenly Eloise cried, "Oh! What is this?"

As MacDonald rushed to her side she pointed to a bright object lying in the forks of a small tree near the library window. Upon examination they found the object to be a small whistle and MacDonald said, "Ah, the source of the bird-note!"

Eloise and Joseph looked frightened when MacDonald took the whistle and after blowing it they were more so, especially Joseph.

"I will go at once and call up the Burns Detective Agency and have them put a detective on the case immediately," exclaimed MacDonald.

In a few minutes he was back to the lawn, and the detective, Belvin Maynard was there too.

"What all has happened?" asked Maynard.

MacDonald told in a brief way all that he knew concerning the mystery. All this time Joseph was in a very nervous condition, but very alert to all that was being done and said:

"After examining the whistle and making a brief survey of the exterior of the house Maynard said, 'May I see the papers you spoke of a while ago?'"

"Yes, follow me into the library," answered MacDonald.

DUNMORE ROAD

Approved by State as Project No. 4122

Since none of the bonds in Greenbank District to date have been sold, perhaps some of the voters would be interested to know the cost of the construction of this road and how it has been financed.

State appropriation on 4 1/4 miles, grading and draining \$11,000 00

Greenbank Class A levy 11,000 00

Total funds available \$25,000 00

Cost of grading and draining 3 1/2 miles and all bills against this road is as follows.

Surveying \$ 402 00

Freight and express bills 193 18

Labor and teams on grading and draining 10,056 36

Cost of drains 500 00

Cost of fuse, caps & dynamite 379 58

Cost of steel, lumber, cement, etc. on 5 concrete culverts 1,345 51

Cost of plows, scrapers, picks, shovels, tools & dynamite 697 05

Use of District truck on this work 300 00

Total expenditures \$13,573 68

State paid Dec. 2nd on work done to Dec. 1st. \$8,975 13

State owes on work done since December 1st 1,872 37

The actual cost the yardage so far excavated has been 60 cents per cubic yard. State paid its pro rata share of 50 per cent at the rate of \$1.10 per cubic yard, this being the estimated cost by the state.

Due to weather conditions construction on this road has been suspended until next spring.

It may be noted in the above expenditures scrapers, plows, picks, shovels, tools and lumber that are charged against this road are in good condition and is an asset to the district in future road construction as more than enough dynamite to finish this road.

FRANK ECHOLS.

Greenbank Dist. Road Engr.

The Country Doctor

In Memory of Dr. J. B. Lockridge

There's a gathering at the village that has never been outdone, Since the soldiers took their muskets to the war of 'sixty-one; And a lot of lumber-wagons near the church upon the hill, And a crowd of country people, Sunday-dressed and very still

Now each window is pre-empted by a dozen heads or more, Now the spacious pews are crowded from the pulpit to the door; For the coverlet of blackness on his portly figure spread, Lies the grim old country doctor, in a massive oaken bed.

Lies the fierce old country doctor, Lies the kind old country doctor, Whom the populace considered with a mingled love and dread.

When so many pined in sickness, he had stood so strongly by, Half the people felt a notion that the doctor couldn't die; They must slowly learn the lesson how to live from day to day, And have somehow lost their bearings—now this landmark is a way

Maybe half the congregation, now of great or little worth, Found this watcher waiting for them, when they came upon the earth;

This undecorated soldier, of a hard, unequal strife, Fought in many stubborn battles with the foe that sought their life.

In the night-time or the daytime, he would rally brave and well, Though the summer lark was fitting, or the frozen lances fell; Knowing if they won the battle, they would praise their Maker's name.

'Twas the brave old virtuous doctor, 'Twas the good old faulty doctor, 'Twas the faithful country doctor—fighting stoutly all the same.

But perhaps it still is better that his busy life is done, He has seen old views and patients disappearing, one by one; He has learned that Death is master both of Science and of Art; He has done his duty fairly, and has acted out his part.

And the strong old country doctor, And the weak old country doctor, Is entitled to a fulsome for his brain and for his heart.

—Selected.

Published by request of the family, a favorite poem of Dr. Lockridge.

EDUCATIONAL JOTTINGS

BY COUNTY SUPT. G. D. MCNEIL

"School Week" resulted in the holding of fifteen meetings in the county. Most of these meetings were attended by a number of representative citizens, and there appeared to be sentiment everywhere that something must be done immediately by way of improving our schools.

Legislators are supposed to represent their constituents. If these constituents do not let their will be known, then the representative in Congress or Legislature may not vote as the people desire him to vote. At the meetings held in this County, it

seemed to be agreed that the Smith-Towner Bill should be passed by Congress, that a production tax should be placed upon coal, oil and gas in West Virginia; that we should have a distributable school fund, and that the salary of capable teachers should be increased and the incompetent teacher eliminated. It will be worth while if the citizens of the different neighborhoods will advise their congressmen, State Senators and Delegates as to their desires in these matters. A few personal letters will serve as additional reminder that the citizens of West Virginia are not satisfied with a 37 per cent school system.

Two members of the Sophomore class of the Marlinton high school arrived Wednesday and at chapel period debated with two members of Greenbrier high school Sophomore class on the question: "Resolved that the welfare of the United States demands that immigration be prohibited for an indefinite period." Edith Holesapple and Lawrence Kennison of Marlinton were on the affirmative and Letitia Hanson and Clinton McCrary of Ronceverte were on the negative side. Each of the speakers showed that much preparation had been given to the subject and good points were given on both sides. The meeting was a success, and we hope during the year to meet debaters from Marlinton and other high schools in the county.

Among the visitors at the school for the debate were: Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Jackson, Rev. W. C. Spangnagel, Geo. E. Fuller, and Miss Mary Gilhooley with the eighth grade from the graded school, West Virginia News.

HONOR ROLL: Spice Run School, W. E. Hayes, Principal, Gladys Callison, Primary teacher.

Second month—Upper—Elizabeth Sydenstricker, Glenna Small, Margie Pyles, Eunice Phelan, Doris Painter, Dorothy Sydenstricker, Dorothy Johnston, Olive Rock, Malcolm Turpin, Eskell High. Lower—Dorothy Pyles, Ruth Pyles, Margie Sydenstricker, Gladys Rock, Patty Rock, Ruth Phelan, Pinkie Loudermilk, Marie Shope, Madge Shope, Franklin Holly, Andrew Painter, Harold Gad, Hunter Painter, Luther Sydenstricker, Carl High, Ernest Combs, Frank Phelan, Earl Baker.

3rd month—Upper, Elizabeth Sydenstricker, Glenna Small, Margie Pyles, Eunice Phelan, Doris Painter, Dorothy Sydenstricker, Georgia Combs, Olive Rock, Delpha Phares, Minnie Phares, Myrtle Phares, Malcolm Turpin, Eskell High, Cambell Johnston. Lower—Beata Johnston, Margie Sydenstricker, Anna Jones Gladys Rock, Patty Rock, Ruth Phelan, Viva Rodgers, Martha Phares, Franklin Holly, Bernard Holly, Andrew Painter, Luther Sydenstricker, Carl High, Ernest Combs, Frank Phelan, Leonard Johnson.

The tannery is again laying down hides. A cut of 10 percent in wages has been announced.

"Rivers End" by James Oliver Cur wood at Amusu Saturday.

MRS. EVALINE JOHNSON, DEAD

Mrs. Evaline Johnson died at her home near Marlinton on Tuesday morning, December 21, 1920, aged 88 years.

A year or more ago she suffered a stroke of paralysis, and she had been in declining health ever since, though being able to be about some. On last Wednesday she was paralyzed again.

Mrs. Johnson was one of the oldest and best known residents of Pocahontas County. She was the oldest child of the late Squire John Vaughn of Indian Draft, and his wife, Martha Moore Vaughn. Of her other children, she had two sons, Rev. J. W. McNeill preceded his mother to the grave about a month ago. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren are numbered by the score.

Her second husband was the late John Moore, of Marlinton, and her third marriage was to the late Edwin Johnson, who died about a year ago.

Mrs. Johnson was buried at Mt. View cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, the services being conducted from her home.

For many years Mrs. Johnson had been a professing Christian, a consistent member of the Methodist church. She lived a useful, helpful life, and was very ready and willing to help in times of trouble and distress. Before laid aside by the infirmities of age, she was a regular and welcome visitor at the homes of her many friends.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Manerva Friel, a life long resident of the Jacob, neighborhood, passed out of this earthly life into life eternal at the Hospital for Insane at Weston, W. Va. on Nov. 8th, 1920, in her 65th year. Her body was sent back to be interred in the family graveyard with so many friends. Interment took place on November 12th after funeral services by her pastor, Rev. W. H. Henderson at Hills Chapel church.

Mrs. Friel leaves one daughter, Mrs. Virgie Hall and a wide circle of relatives and friends to mourn her going but they are comforted by the knowledge that she was a quiet, humble Christian woman and believe that she is afar better off delivered from the ailments of mortal flesh and the many trials of this earthly life.

Her husband, Israel Friel, preceded her in death near eight years, but when ties are broken here they are so often renewed "Over There" and we feel comforted by knowing that we may find this friend in a land where the inhabitants never say they are sick or troubled. S. V. M.

Mrs. L. O. Simmons of Marlinton, W. Va., has been the guest of her sister, Mrs. Tomblin, of Chaffin Street. The Richmond deaf were delighted with her visit and hope that she will return soon. During her stay in Richmond Mrs. Simmons was hostess at a delightful party given on November 26th at the home of her sister, Mrs. Tomblin. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Rosenbloom, Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Tucker, Miss Doshia Wickline, Miss Roberta Newman, Mr. Frank Crasay, Mr. Gall Wilson, Mr. Carlisle Scott. —The Virginia Guide.

Numerous complaints are being made to the office of the Prosecuting Attorney about the use of ferrets in hunting rabbits. It is a violation of the law, the game law devoting a special section to the subject.

"THE Big Production "Rivers End" at Amusu Saturday, Matinee at 3 p. m.

SLATYFORK

Mrs. Rella Yeager is getting along nicely with her school. This is a very large school owing to the fact that there has been several families moved into this neighborhood this fall.

The pie supper Saturday night for the suffering in the far east was largely attended and over \$140.00 was taken in. L. D. Sharp and others gave talks on the benefit of our education.

The Sunday School will give an entertainment and have a Christmas tree at the school house on Xmas eve.

We think if the officers would visit over in this part they would sure catch some moonshiners, as you can so oft times see men under the influence of whiskey or some other intoxicating drinks. There is no doubt but what it is manufactured not far away, and there will be plenty of it we fear during holidays, and the officers should see that this curse is blotted out of our country, and the citizens should no longer be quiet but should rise up in arms and say that this work must stop.

S. D. Hannah is very ill at this writing and Dr. Cox thinks perhaps he may have to be taken to the hospital to be operated on.

There has been a lot of sheep stolen from this section and driven off and we see from an advertisement that there was some cattle stolen from Dr. Hannah on the head of Clover Creek. Now no doubt but what some one is just making a business of driving off stock, and we believe they are driven off at night as some sheep have been lost out along the trail towards Cloverlick that belongs to L. D. Sharp.

The measles have about died down in this section—only a few cases that we know of at this time.

There is lots of work going on near this town. There are several lumber camps and men are being paid big wages. Some contractors are making from \$10 to \$15 per day, so we understand.

We think the foreign element should not be allowed to be dumped into our country by the millions and we should have a protective tariff. Wool being shipped in here without a tariff will ruin the sheep industry. Some foreign countries have offered a buyer in this state one million lbs. of wool at 15c per pound on seaboard, and is said to be as good quality of wool as ours.

I say to the farmers, hold your wool. Don't take no such prices as prices will not always stay down so low that you cant afford to shear your sheep.

DURBIN

A. G. Hardbarger is moving back to our town.

W. W. Marshall and Ed Simmons are building a garage.

M. C. Kavanagh butchered two hogs that weighed 1940 pounds.

J. B. Nottingham was in town last week consulting a physician.

Robert Eads and Vida McLaughlin are expected home this week from Alderson school.

Mrs. C. P. Kerr was visiting Mrs. Allen Ash at Burner, last week.

Some of our young ladies are contemplating going to Elkins Xmas.

John Flenner is loading dye wood.

R. L. Shifflett and Albert Ash of Burner, were here on business.

S. T. Ruckman is here from Crabbottom.

Dr. C. B. Collins is able to be at his office again.

SPICE RUN

The health of the community, in general, has been very good the past week.

Fob Johnston of this place was in Marlinton on business Saturday.

Monk Small, the trapper and fur trader reports that the fur business like all other business is dull.

The mill continues to run a day now and then. We hope that it will soon start to run regularly.

Chas. A. Briggs and J. H. Phelan are spending the week-end in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Charlie Callison and Lee Loudermilk have recently completed the additional to Mr. Small's house.

Henry Brosius, who is a student in the Hillsboro High School, is home for the holidays. Mr. Brosius is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Brosius, formerly of Brookville, Pa.

At a congregational meeting of the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday night, a call was given to Rev. W. C. Robinson, of Princeton Seminary. This young minister has the highest recommendations, and it is hoped he can see his way clear to accept the pastorate of this church. He also has under consideration a call to a large church at Gettysburg, Penna.

A meeting of the members of the Pocahontas Farm Bureau is called to meet at Marlinton next Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock to make arrangements to secure the services of a County Agent.

"Rivers End" by James Oliver Cur wood at Amusu Saturday.

LAST CALL

to select you Christmas Gifts so do not delay, but come at once to Finger-Siegel Co. who still have a large variety of merchandise to please the young and old.

Dolls from 25c to 3.50

Sleds made for rough use only 85c

Kiddy Kars in all sizes at low prices

Handkerchiefs in boxes for the entire family

Writing paper in boxes at 19c and up

Men's belts, neckwear, hose supporters

Ladies' fine shirtwaists, bondior caps and many other useful articles for the entire family.

Specials for this week

Men's heavy weight 4 buckle arctics only 3.45

Men's heavy weight 1 buckle arctics only 2.25

Rappahannock wool pants only 4.95

Beautiful assortments of men's silk shirts 4.00

Boys' heavy fleeced lined union suits 1.29

Boys' high top shoes will stand rough use 3.95

Men's Walk Over shoes at reduced prices

Ladies' Walk Over shoes at reduced prices.

Ladies, Misses and Children's bath robes from 1.98 and up

Boys' solid leather shoes at 2.45

Boys' suits well made only 7.45

Boys' mackinaws special price 7.95

FINGER-SIEGEL CO.

CASS, WEST VIRGINIA

COUNTY COURT

County Court was in special session on Tuesday with Dr. U. H. Hannah and W. H. Barlow present.

An order was entered listing a special term of the court on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a. m.

Officers qualified as follows: Justices—A. E. Smith, C. J. McCarty, John Perry, C. P. Kerr and J. B. Sutton.

County Court—E. H. Williams, Sheriff—B. B. Beard, bond, \$40,000.00. Deputies, C. C. Clendenen, T. A. Bruffey and Elmer Moore.

Assessor—G. A. C. Aldridge, bond \$6,000. Deputy, G. M. Sharp.

County Surveyor—Ira H. Irvine, bond \$1,000.

Circuit Clerk—D. C. Adkison.

E. L. Fenton qualified as notary public.

J. H. Lindsey was over from Linwood on Tuesday. He had a timber cutting contract with the West Virginia Spruce Lumber Company the past year, and laid up something for a rainy day. On his way over he came across Thorny Flat to Stony Bottom, and had to break the way through the deep snow, being the first man across since the storm.

W. W. Galford was down from Dunmore on Tuesday. He has lost a number of cattle the last season in the Alleghany range. This is a common complaint among stockmen this year. He got trace of one three year old, however, finding a hide which filled the description of his steer, but the brand had been cut off. He feels so kindly towards the man who skinned his steer that he will give him the hide if he will call, being willing to let the hide go with the rest.

The railroad has about completed a big turntable near the light plant.

J. L. Baxter, the Ford dealer, unloaded a lot of Ford cars last Saturday.

The Methodist Sunday School will have a Christmas entertainment on next Wednesday night.

The Christmas service at the Presbyterian Church will be a vesper service at the Sunney School and Christian Endeavor at 4:30 Sunday afternoon.

Administrator's Notice

Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate of the late Wallace G. Burner, to present the same proven according to law to the undersigned administrator for payment. All persons indebted to said estate will please prepare to settle at once.

This 20th day of December, 1920.

U. W. Burner, J. S. Burner, Administrators of W. G. Burner, deceased. Durbin, W. Va.

FOR QUICK SALE: Mill property and residence at Spring Creek, W. Va., on account of failing health. A bargain if sold at once.

J. W. Beard, Spring Creek, W. Va.

DIED

Lanty Wooddell died at his home near Greenbank on Friday, December 17, 1920, of tuberculosis after a long illness. His age was about 50 years. Burial at the Arboreal graveyard on Sunday afternoon, services being conducted by Rev. J. W. Rosenburgs. He is survived by his wife and their three children, Gratta, Glenn and Kyle. Mr. Wooddell was a good citizen.

Administrator's Sale

As administrators, we will offer at public auction Tuesday January 4th, 1921 all of the personal property of Wallace Burner, deceased at his late residence about 6 miles from Durbin and containing the following:

1 horse, 35 chickens, 1 buggy, 2 axes 1 cant hook & 2 pairs grubs, 3 spools of barb wire & 2 rod of wire, 40 lbs. ears of corn, 15 bu. buckwheat 50 doz. sheaf oats, 3 stacks of hay, 2 sets harness, 1 set buggy harness, 4 horse collars, 1 feed cutter, 5 hand forks, 3 halters & 2 pieces of rope, 1 Wilbur saddle, 3 bridles, 2 sets of spindlers & 2 log chains, 30 bundles of fodder, 2 shovels plow & hillsider, 1 diffing tank, 1 buggy rake, half interest in apple mill, 50 bu. apples, 25 bu. potatoes, canned fruit and jars, 5 gal. lamp oil, 1 set buggy lines, 1 cook stove, 1 heating stove, 60 lbs of white and buckwheat flour, 25 gal. stone ware, 50 lbs salt, 2 saws 1 hand 1 crosscut, 1 brace & bit, 4 dining room chairs, 1 rocker, 1 sheep clipping machine, 1 Winchester gun 1 single barrel shot gun, 1 bunch wool, 1 grain cradle, 1 meat saw, 1 hay knife, 2 hay sythes & sneads, 1 watch 1 trunk and hand bag 1 lamp 2 lanterns, 1 pair sheep shears, 1 field glass 1 bed comfort, 1 cot, 2 new wool blankets, 3 hammers & hatchets, sole leather.

TERMS: All amounts under \$10,